



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Online & 2 Lincoln St.  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
Wednesday, August 14, 2024  
**6:30 PM**

E-mail: [admin@essexjunction.org](mailto:admin@essexjunction.org)

[www.essexjunction.org](http://www.essexjunction.org)

Phone: (802) 878-6944

This meeting will be in-person at 2 Lincoln Street and available remotely. Options to watch or join the meeting remotely:

- **WATCH:** the meeting will be live streamed on [Town Meeting TV](#)
- **JOIN ONLINE:** [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- **JOIN CALLING:** (toll free audio only): (888) 788-0099 | Meeting ID: 944 6429 7825; Passcode: 635787

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
  - a. Comments from Public
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - a. Discussion and Consideration of Appointment of Cristin Gildea to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
  - b. Presentation on the Crescent Connector Tutorial
  - c. Presentation and Discussion of Global Foundries Electric Battery Storage Project (Essex VT BESS)
  - d. Presentation and Discussion of Green Mountain Transit's Funding Gap
  - e. Discussion and Consideration of Champlain Valley Expo Sound Waivers and Concerts
  - f. Discussion of Essex Junction's Participation in VLCT Welcoming & Engaging Communities Program
  - g. \*Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to discuss a Contract
  - h. \*\*Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to discuss Personnel
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
  - a. Approve Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2024
  - b. Acting as the Liquor Control Commission: Liquor and Tobacco License Approvals
  - c. Approval of Maple Street Playground RFP Award
  - d. Approval of Block Party Taylor Drive 8/18/24
  - e. Approval of EHS Bonfire Request
7. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT**
8. **READING FILE**
  - a. Check Warrant #24049 7/12/24, #24050 7/26/24, #24051 8/9/24
  - b. July Financial Report and Memo
  - c. Connect the Junction Project
  - d. Community Resource Brochure
  - e. Lead Service Line Update Memo from MSK
  - f. CATMA Membership
  - g. Regional Boards and Committees Minutes Memo
  - h. BWAC Minutes 7/15/24
  - i. CRC Minutes 7/2/24
  - j. PC Minutes 7/3/24 and 8/1/24

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
  - a. \*An Executive Session may be needed to discuss a Contract
  - b. \*\*An Executive Session may be needed to discuss Personnel
  
10. **ADJOURN**

*Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the President, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the President. Regarding zoom participants, if individuals interrupt, they will be muted; and if they interrupt a second time they will be removed. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the City Council, like all programs and activities of the City of Essex Junction, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the City Manager's office at 802-878-6944 TTY: 7-1-1 or (800) 253-0191.*

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**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
August 14, 2024**

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Raj Chawla, President; Amber Thibeault; Vice President; Tim Miller, Clerk; Marcus Certa, Elaine Haney.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Regina Mahony, City Manager; Ashley Snellenberger, Communications and Strategic Initiatives Director.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clayton Clark, Laura Coriell, Jeffrey Cronin, Logan Dye, Steven Eustis, Christine Gaynor-Patterson, Cristin Gildea, Rick Hamlin, Michael Herbert, Joseph Leavitt, Genevieve Melle, Tim Shea, Dennis Thibeault, Resa.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

City Council President Chawla called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. He said that in previous City Council meetings members of the public have made racist and anti-Semitic comments and that these comments have disrupted presentations that were made during the public comment period. He said that the City Council does not condone such language and opposes it. He said that such comments are deeply harmful and are entirely inconsistent with the community's values. He said that while it is not possible to prevent harmful speech during public comments, the Council will continue to condemn such comments publicly.

2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

City Manager Mahony noted that Consent Agenda item #6d should read "Tyler Drive", not "Taylor Drive". She also noted that under Consent Agenda item #6b, Dollar Plus Treasure's tobacco license was pending police department approval, and that they have now received that approval.

3. **APPROVE AGENDA**

None needed.

4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

a. Comments from public on items not on the agenda

Steven Eustis spoke about 4 properties on South and West Streets not mowing grass along its sidewalks, which has made it difficult to navigate the sidewalk and also raises concerns about coming into contact with ticks. He said that with the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, the City has decided to replace the ash trees in the public right-of-way. He suggested that the City mail letters to property-owners on Wilkinson, Tyler, and Hayden Drive, who have Planning Commission required ash street trees on their properties that are along the sidewalk to notify them that they should take the trees down (because many property-owners assume that the City will take all ash trees down, even those that are not in the public right-of-way). He also said that on West Street near the church there are a number of dead trees, and some are overhanging the road, and expressed concern that these could pose a danger to pedestrians or cars.

Genevieve Melle expressed opposition to the Champlain Valley Expo paying for its new grandstand by having a concert every other week to increase revenue. She expressed concern about the quality-of-life issues in the City, given the potential effects of the Crescent Connector, and now potentially additional noise issues with increased concert frequency. She raised concerns about equity, given that the residents who would be affected by increased Champlain Valley Expo noise would be those in apartment buildings along Pearl Street. She expressed disappointment with the direction the City is taking in its development.

Christine Gaynor-Patterson said there is some confusion around the sign ordinance and enforcement of it, especially in the context of elections. She said some candidates are following the ordinance, while others are not, and expressed concerns about the fairness of this. She suggested the City clarify the ordinance in preparation for the general election in November. She also expressed concern about waiving the noise

ordinance for Champlain Valley Expo, and challenged the City to ensure that its goals and ordinances align with its purported identity as a walkable, inclusive community.

## 5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### a. Discussion and Consideration of Appointment of Cristin Gildea to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

Ms. Gildea began by noting that she is strongly interested in representing the City of Essex Junction on the CCRPC and interested in collaborating with neighboring towns in the region on collective issues, such as housing, climate change, Act 250 revisions, and other common issues. She spoke about her work on the Development Review Board and said that also sitting on the CCRPC would be a good linkage. She said that she would also report back out to the City Council on CCRPC activities on a regular basis. Councilor Haney spoke about her experience on the CCRPC and said she is glad to transition this role to someone who is equally interested in these issues, Councilor Certa said he thinks Ms. Gildea would be a good fit for the CCRPC.

**City Council President Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Haney, that the City Council appoint Cristin Gildea to the remaining term on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), which expires in June 2025. The motion passed 5-0.**

### b. Presentation on the Crescent Connector Tutorial

Resident Engineer Rick Hamlin gave a presentation on the traffic movement changes that will occur once the Crescent Connector is completed (which will be in the next month). He began by noting that this project originated in 2011 with preliminary study and concepts. He noted that the project contained two phases, the first of which was a reconstruction of all railroad crossings in the City limits, and the second of which realigns and changes the traffic pattern to pedestrianize Main Street and reroute its traffic onto the Crescent Connector, which would in turn create a standard four-way intersection at Five Corners. He spoke about a new parking area at part of the Connector that will include EV charging stations, bike boxes, a bike rack, and new downtown core parking that will replace some of the parking lost on Park Street. He also noted dedicated bike lanes on both sides of the Crescent Connector and sidewalks. He noted a new left-turn lane at the Maple Street/Railroad Street intersection. He said this allows for a bicycle lane on Maple Street to extend to the Five Corners. He noted that the Railroad Street configuration will remain largely unchanged, though it has been widened. He noted new lighting throughout the project. He noted that the project is slated for completion in the middle of September, once the roads are paved, striped, and the traffic signals come online.

Councilor Haney confirmed that the Crescent Connector's road is called Railroad Street. She asked if left turns are permitted from Maple Street to Park Street at Five Corners, and Mr. Hamlin replied that no, left turns will not be permitted at the Five Corners intersection from Maple to Park Street, and someone can only go straight or turn right. Councilor Haney asked how the public will be educated about the traffic flow change. City Manager Mahony noted that this discussion is the kickoff to the public engagement, and that staff are also preparing a press release to help start to educate the public.

Councilor Thibeault asked when the 30-day trial period for the traffic signals will begin, and Mr. Hamlin replied that it will begin once the roads are paved and striped and directional signals are installed. He noted that no work to impair traffic in the City's right-of-way will occur during the week of the fair.

Councilor Certa asked what signage will be posted to demonstrate that there is no left turn permitted from Maple Street onto Park Street at Five Corners. Mr. Hamlin replied that the signage will be similar to that on Main Street, and there will be directional arrows on Route 2A before the Maple Street intersection. Councilor Certa asked how this information will be conveyed to Waze and Google Maps. Mr. Hamlin replied that this will be communicated to map technology through the Police Department, and they are currently working on it. Councilor Certa asked if there will be a barrier or fence between the Lincoln Inn and the new Crescent Connector parking lot, and Mr. Hamlin replied that there will be a new six-foot fence from Park Street to Maple and Maple Street to Main Street, to separate the public from railroad operations.

110 Mr. Hamlin noted that as part of the project there was a Corrective Action Plan due to contaminated soils  
111 near the railroad tracks, and said that there is a draft ordinance that will need to be adopted to warn future  
112 potential developers and others of these contaminated soils in the future. He noted that the soils have been  
113 capped with an orange barrier. He also noted that they will be completing the cleanup of the site and squaring  
114 away final aesthetic details as the project winds down.  
115

116 c. Presentation and Discussion of Global Foundries Electric Battery Storage Project (Essex VT BESS)  
117 City Manager Mahony began by noting that approval of this project will go through the State’s Public Utilities  
118 Commission (PUC), though the City Council and Planning Commission have the opportunity to provide  
119 comments to the PUC on this proposal. She noted that the Planning Commission heard a presentation of  
120 this project already, and that the project applicant has been in touch with the Fire Department as well.  
121

122 Michael Herbert began by providing an overview of Lightshift Energy, which would be the owner and operator  
123 of a battery storage facility at GlobalFoundries. He said that they are seeking a Certificate of Public Good for  
124 a battery energy storage system (BESS) to reduce GlobalFoundries’ energy consumption during peak times  
125 and provide broader clean energy and electric reliability benefits to the region. He said that this will reduce  
126 operating costs at GlobalFoundries, provide a source of clean power capacity and support grid reliability,  
127 offer benefits to the transmission system by reducing power flows at peak times, and support renewable  
128 energy goals and integrate solar power. He noted that additionally, they will use locally-based suppliers and  
129 labor, as well as create state and municipal tax revenue. He described the location of the BESS site on the  
130 GlobalFoundries campus. He said the site would contain a small access drive, 12 battery containers and 5  
131 transformer/inverter containers. He noted that the site was selected to minimize the aesthetic impact, and  
132 that visibility of the infrastructure is limited to locations north of the site. He said that the system will emit  
133 about 60 decibels of noise at the source and about 30 decibels at the property boundary, based on a noise  
134 analysis conducted as part of the application. City Council President Chawla said he is curious about the  
135 impact of this level of noise to the apartment buildings that face this unit. Mr. Herbert replied that they could  
136 share the noise analysis. Councilor Certa asked about safety considerations given to this site and any details  
137 on Fire Department training conducted. Mr. Leavitt spoke about extensive engagement with the Essex  
138 Junction Fire Department, including familiarization, compilation of the detailed design specifications, and a  
139 comprehensive hazard mitigation analysis through a third party, which are all reviewed with the Fire  
140 Department to ensure mutual understanding. He said that in parallel, Lightshift is also working on a detailed  
141 emergency response plan. He noted that they have designed the site to be contained to a small area. He  
142 said that when they near site completion, they will conduct on-site training with the Fire Department and  
143 support additional training through the life of the project. He said that the costs for this are borne by Lightshift.  
144

145 d. Presentation and Discussion of Green Mountain Transit’s Funding Gap  
146 Clayton Clark, GMT General Manager, presented an update on GMT’s financial gap for FY2025 and FY2026  
147 between revenue and expenses. He spoke about potential service reductions, though he noted that the  
148 situation continues to be fluid through the next legislative session and that these potential service reductions  
149 are worst case scenario. He said that they continue to try to identify other revenue sources and non-service  
150 expenses to cut. He said that over the past 5 years, the cost for operating public transit has grown much  
151 higher than the revenue used to pay for it, given increased labor costs and shortages. He also noted the  
152 sunset of federal funding and lack of additional support from the legislature. He said that in FY26, they  
153 will have exhausted their reserve funds and will have a \$3 million gap between revenue and expenses, which  
154 would require a reduction of 30% in urban service. He said that they will issue a draft plan for service  
155 reductions on August 27, 2024, though they will continue to work to identify funding sources and take public  
156 input at public hearings on this draft plan. He said they also plan to field a survey to town managers and  
157 legislative bodies to gather feedback as well. He said they will solicit feedback through September and work  
158 to refine the draft reduction plan in October. He said that GMT must present a financial sustainability plan to  
159 the legislature in mid-November, which will be informed by the service reduction plan. He said that they would  
160 implement service reductions in two phases, one in February for FY25 and the second in June for the  
161 beginning of FY26.  
162

163 Councilor Certa noted that GMT’s statute gives them the authority to request a special assessment, and that  
164 not requesting a special assessment to address the funding gap was identified by legislators as a reason

165 they were opposed to providing additional funds to GMT. He asked if this is a general comment about the  
166 legislature or if there are specific legislators that have made this comment, because special assessments  
167 require unanimous approval by municipal members. City Council President Chawla asked if members of the  
168 House/Senate transportation committees are being invited to the public hearings. Councilor Haney said she  
169 interpreted the special assessment statement as the legislature being unwilling to provide additional funds  
170 until GMT exercises a special assessment and obtains additional funds, and then the legislature would  
171 provide further funds. She also noted that CCRPC has gone out of their way to make connections and  
172 ensuring robust public participation in the planning process with marginalized and vulnerable populations,  
173 which would likely be the most impacted by these service reductions. She suggested that GMT connect with  
174 CCRPC to include these communities in their engagement. Mr. Clark replied that he is well connected with  
175 CCRPC and sits on its Equity Advisory Council, and will work with them to spread the word about  
176 engagement. He clarified that the Chair of the House Transportation Committee brought up a concern from  
177 the legislature that GMT did not seek additional funding through its urban municipal members through its  
178 statutory special assessment authority prior to seeking funding through the State. He confirmed that they  
179 would need a unanimous vote from urban municipal members to have a special assessment, and said he  
180 did not know if this is possible, though they will go through the special assessment process. He noted that  
181 they obtained \$630,000 in one-time funds from the legislature in FY25, and he will recommend that the  
182 special assessment match that one-time funding. He noted that they will finalize the special assessment ask  
183 for municipal members in October. He further noted that one-time funds from a special assessment will be  
184 helpful in delaying some service reductions but will not solve the bigger systems issues at play, though he  
185 thinks the delay in service reductions will be helpful. He said that once more rural transit systems hit their  
186 fiscal cliffs in the next year, the legislature will be likely to have more of an appetite for putting funding toward  
187 public transit at the State level. He noted that urban municipalities are contributing far more funding toward  
188 public transit than rural municipalities, both in absolute and per capita dollars. He noted that the entire  
189 Chittenden County delegation is invited to the service reduction public hearings.

190  
191 Mr. Clark then spoke about potential assessment reform for GMT. He noted that GMT's current assessment  
192 system was established in 2008 and municipalities at the time were focused on predictability for public transit  
193 costs, which led to an assessment methodology that would increase by a certain rate each year. He said that  
194 this methodology doesn't capture service line additions or reductions, and doesn't allow for providing the best  
195 service to municipalities. He said he would like to reform the assessment methodology to allow for a more  
196 dynamic suite of offerings to municipalities and to address some of the underlying issues related to funding.

197  
198 Councilor Certa asked how the reinstatement of fares has impacted ridership levels. Mr. Clark replied that  
199 ridership tends to drop in the summertime (in tandem with when they last reinstated fares), but that they have  
200 not seen as much of an impact as anticipated. He noted that they are meeting their revenue targets, which  
201 could help close the funding gap. He also noted that while the system was fare free they saw an increase in  
202 the number of behavioral issues and no-trespass orders they had to issue, and that those numbers have  
203 dropped with the reinstatement of fares (and said that he has mixed feelings about this).

204  
205 City Council President Chawla expressed an interest in working on the assessment reforms, given the key  
206 role that GMT plays in the urban transit system.

207  
208 The following public comments were received:

- 209 • Christine Gaynor-Patterson expressed concern about the potential 30% reduction in GMT services,  
210 and asked the City to think about how it would compensate for this potential lack of infrastructure,  
211 given its push to becoming a more walkable, multimodal, dense urban area. City Council President  
212 Chawla agreed and acknowledged these issues and the frustration around them.

213  
214 e. Discussion and Consideration of Champlain Valley Expo Sound Waivers and Concerts  
215 Councilor Haney recused herself from the discussion, due to a conflict of interest.

216  
217 City Manager Mahony noted that this was previously discussed at the Council's June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and that  
218 Mr. Shea provided responses to the Council's questions raised during that meeting. She also noted that at  
219 the June meeting the Council asked staff to analyze what level of public participation should be used for this

220 decision under the Spectrum of Public Participation framework, and that staff have determined that the level  
221 of engagement should be the “Consult” level, which aims to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives,  
222 opportunities, solutions, pros, and cons.  
223

224 City Council President Chawla asked if there is a way to drop the decibel level limit overall and whether CVE  
225 would be willing to look at ways to limit and focus sound through different speaker configurations. Tim Shea,  
226 Executive Director of the Champlain Valley Expo, replied that they would be willing to explore decibel  
227 reduction, but reiterated that bands will choose the venue, not vice versa, so they may be passed over by  
228 bands that do not want that strict of a decibel limit. He said that they have talked to a sound engineer, but  
229 one challenge is that most of the analysis is hypothetical. He said that they can look into reconfiguring the  
230 speakers. He said that they will also have someone go into surrounding neighborhoods during some of the  
231 shows at the Fair to measure sound levels, though he cautioned that the Fair generates a notable amount of  
232 noise in addition to sound from music shows. Councilor Certa asked if CVE has looked into sound mitigation  
233 technology such as echo barriers. City Council President Chawla asked an overarching question of how far  
234 CVE is willing to go to implement sound mitigation to the extent that they no longer rely on sound waivers  
235 except for the very largest of shows. He also asked how short of an agreement term CVE would be willing to  
236 explore, to give both parties the opportunity to explore what works and what doesn't in terms of waivers and  
237 sound mitigation. Mr. Shea replied that they are willing to invest whatever is economically feasible to mitigate  
238 as much sound as possible. He said that in terms of an agreement term length, he said it would be difficult  
239 to justify an agreement that is shorter than ten years, given the investments needed for infrastructure  
240 upgrades. City Manager Mahony asked if it would be possible to do four or five grandstand only concerts  
241 next year to test out the sound mitigation and then move forward. Mr. Shea replied that the grandstand is still  
242 structurally sound but not in the best condition, so it may be difficult to charge a high enough ticket price to  
243 entice people to come.  
244

245 Councilors discussed next steps in terms of public engagement on this issue, saying that they will likely  
246 discuss this over the course of the next several City Council meetings. Director Snellenberger spoke about  
247 assigning this issue the public engagement level of “Consult”, given that this is not a City project but rather  
248 an ask from an external vendor. She noted a number of strategies for obtaining feedback (stakeholder  
249 interviews, focus groups, surveys, public comment during meetings, comments from social media, and email  
250 correspondence to the City Manager and City Council), saying that the easiest strategy to pursue here may  
251 be to field a survey to the public, or explore a public hearing on the topic. She said that they could use  
252 Microsoft Forms as a survey tool.  
253

254 Councilor Certa agreed with the approach of using surveys, but expressed concern that a survey will not  
255 elicit responses from people who have not already given their feedback. He said that they have had two  
256 meetings on this topic with strong participation and have had emails from constituents, and asked about the  
257 value-add of fielding a survey with the potential to only receive responses from the members of the  
258 community who have already engaged. City Council President Chawla also expressed concern that they  
259 aren't able to verify from a survey whether someone is a resident of the City. He noted that the emails they  
260 have received represent a good cross-section of the City, and suggested posting a call for more public  
261 comment prior to the next meeting. Councilor Miller agreed that they have engaged with the public and  
262 received quite a bit of feedback already. Councilor Certa added that one sector they may not have heard  
263 enough feedback from is businessowners in the Junction, and Councilors agreed to try and solicit more input  
264 individually from businessowners in the next two weeks.  
265

266 The following public comments were received:

- 267 • Resa asked how CVE was given the information that was noted tonight (emails, questions, comments  
268 from constituents), and City Manager Mahony replied that CVE requested it and it was provided by  
269 the City. Resa said that the City needs to assess the value-add of any revised agreement or waivers  
270 to Essex Junction.
- 271 • Christine Gaynor-Patterson asked how CVE obtains sound ordinance waivers, and how those  
272 waivers can be revoked or reassessed. She also echoed Resa's question about the value-add to  
273 Essex Junction of any revised agreements or waivers for CVE.  
274

275 f. Discussion of Essex Junction’s Participation in VLCT Welcoming and Engaging Communities Program  
 276 City Manager Mahony noted that representatives from Essex Junction (herself, City Council President  
 277 Chawla, and HR Director Dwyer) participated in the 2023-2024 cohort of VLCT’s Welcoming and Engaging  
 278 Communities Program. She said that this allowed representatives from different municipalities to come  
 279 together and discuss topics like equality, diversity, data analytics, inclusion, and belonging and specific  
 280 challenges for municipalities around each of these. She said one component of the program was a survey  
 281 fielded to City staff and committee members to determine how welcomed they feel living and working in the  
 282 community. She said that the City’s score on this survey indicates that it has some work to do to become a  
 283 more welcoming and engaging place to work. She said that City staff will analyze the data further to try and  
 284 identify areas for improvement, with the longer-term goal of engaging with employees to figure out what the  
 285 issues are. Councilor Certa said that if the data isn’t broken out department-by-department, it will be difficult  
 286 to figure out where the feedback is coming from and how to address needs. City Council President Chawla  
 287 acknowledged the significant amount of change the City has sustained over the last number of years, and  
 288 would guess that some of the survey responses are due to this. He said that the City needs to begin this  
 289 work internally, and suggested also making adjustments to how policies and ordinances are developed, and  
 290 how decisions are made to be more inclusive and give staff a better experience. Councilor Certa said it is  
 291 important to emphasize that the feedback was received and that incremental improvements will be made  
 292 based on that feedback, which will lead to more engagement.  
 293

294 g. \*Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to discuss a Contract  
 295 See item #9a below.  
 296

297 h. \*\*Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to discuss Personnel  
 298

299 **6. CONSENT ITEMS**

- 300 a. Approve Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2024
- 301 b. Acting as Liquor Control Commission: Liquor and Tobacco License Approvals
- 302 c. Approval of Maple Street Playground RFP Award
- 303 d. Approval of Block Party Tyler Drive 8/18/24
- 304 e. Approval of EHS Bonfire Request

305  
 306 **Councilor Haney made a motion, seconded by Councilor Certa, to approve the consent agenda as**  
 307 **presented. The motion passed 5-0.**  
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309 **7. COUNCILOR COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

310 City Manager Mahony thanked the Fire Department for its work last Friday to clear downed trees during the  
 311 windstorm. She noted that the Crescent Connector project is nearing completion, and thanked the public for  
 312 their patience during construction. She noted that there is a staff memo in the reading file on the “Connect  
 313 the Junction” project (also known as the Transit-Oriented Development project), which examines the portions  
 314 of the City with robust bus service and thinking through housing and business needs and development in this  
 315 area. She noted a community charette process October 6 – 8 and welcomed community engagement. She  
 316 also noted the City’s membership in CATMA to try and help staff members use non-car transportation.  
 317 Councilor Certa thanked staff for their collective work during the windstorm last Friday to ensure that people  
 318 had what they needed. Councilor Miller thanked Public Works for restriping roadways and crosswalks,  
 319 especially because they have to do those activities at night. He also said that tonight is his 20<sup>th</sup> wedding  
 320 anniversary and wished his wife a happy anniversary.  
 321

322 **8. READING FILE**

- 323 a. Check Warrant #24049 7/12/2024; #24050 7/26/2024; #24051 8/9/2024
- 324 b. July Financial Report and Memo
- 325 c. Connect the Junction Project
- 326 d. Community Resource Brochure
- 327 e. Lead Service Line Update Memo from MSK
- 328 f. CATMA Membership
- 329 g. Regional Boards and Committees Minutes Memo



- h. BWAC Minutes 7/15/24
- i. CRC Minutes 7/2/2024
- j. PC Minutes 7/3/24 and 8/1/24

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. \*An Executive Session may be needed to discuss a Contract

**Councilor Certa made a motion, seconded by City Council President Chawla, that the City Council make the specific finding that premature disclosure of the contractual matters would place the city at a substantial disadvantage and that the City Council enter into executive session to discuss a contract, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to include the City Council and City Manager. The motion passed 5-0 at 9:45 P.M.**

**City Council President Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Certa, to exit executive session. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:40 P.M.**

**City Council President Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Haney, that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with the Essex Junction Employee Association for 2024-2027. The motion passed 5-0.**

- b. \*\*An Executive Session may be needed to discuss Personnel

**Councilor Certa made a motion, seconded by City Council President Chawla, that the City Council enter into executive session to discuss a personnel evaluation, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to include the City Council and City Manager. The motion passed 5-0 at 9:45 P.M.**

**City Council President Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Certa, to exit executive session. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:40 P.M.**

10. **ADJOURN**

**City Council President Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Certa, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:41 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Coonradt